

V.M. Meletiadis

# Nothing is True Zines are Permitted



A CHRONOLOGY OF CHAOS MAGIC ZINES  
FROM 1976 TO THE MID-1990S



Nothing is True\_Zines are Permitted  
By V.M. Meletiadis  
Thessaloniki, August 2023





This is an e-zine about chaos magic zines produced and distributed between the 1970s and 1990s, mostly in England and the United States. More specifically, it presents a chronology of chaos magic zines, which, in its current version (implying that there will be future ones) begins with Ray Sherwin's *New Equinox* and ends with a little-known Discordian zine from Norfolk in the mid-1990s.

Chaos magic is an occult philosophy, practice and approach to reality that emerged in late 1970s Yorkshire UK, essentially while the first wave of punk rock was giving way to the post-punk genres and subcultures. A child of its time, chaos magic reveled in the zine-mania that characterized these scenes. From the very first chaos magicians (or *chaotes*), Ray Sherwin and Peter Carroll, to the various groups in California in the 1990s, zines became the primary means for intellectual expression, communication and networking. The result was the creation of a delightfully large number of booklets, periodicals and pamphlets, each with its own unique style, artwork and ideas. Due however to the small number of copies and often localized distribution, such zines are now extremely hard to find. Nevertheless, as has been pointed out by others (see bibliography; Colin Duggan, 2013) , any attempt at understanding the history of chaos magic must, of necessity, include at least basic knowledge of this zine scene. This e-zine aims towards remedying the situation.





If the above intro started out in a tone too serious for you, fear not. I have tried to make the zine goofy and carefree while also maintaining a factual and historical approach that will hopefully satisfy the most serious of scholars.

Each page features a zine cover, its title, year(s) of publication and a small paragraph describing the zine, or offering some pointless (or not) trivia about it. This unfortunately means that the less a reader knows about chaos magic, the less they will be able to understand if certain unknown names or terms pop up.



Some of the cover images I have owned myself. Others are from friends, acquaintances and colleagues or have been found online. In some cases, I was unable to find, or have lost pictures of the particular zine covers.



A symbol of chaos in the top-right corner means that the zine was linked to, or its author was affiliated with the Illuminates of Thanateros group. Meanwhile, the Psychic Cross means affiliation with Thee Temple ov Psychic Youth.

Additionally, some of the zines included here were not strictly affiliated with a chaos magic group but were linked to the broader scene.



## Abbreviations and Glossary:

IOT: The Illuminates of Thanateros. The first and arguably most important chaos magic group, formed in the late 1970s.

TOPY: Thee Temple ov Psychic Youth. Though not identifying itself as a chaos magic group, it was certainly part of the broader scene.



The background images are heavily edited panels from the cyberpunk manga *Abara* and *Blame!* by Tsutomu Nihei and the whatever-you-wanna-call-it manga *Dorohedoro* by Q Hayashida.



Lastly, a disclaimer. To point out the obvious, this e-zine is about, well... zines. This means that works published by mainstream publishing houses or have an ISBN number are not included (I have allowed one exception). For example, the 1987 Weiser edition of *Liber Null*, is not mentioned.





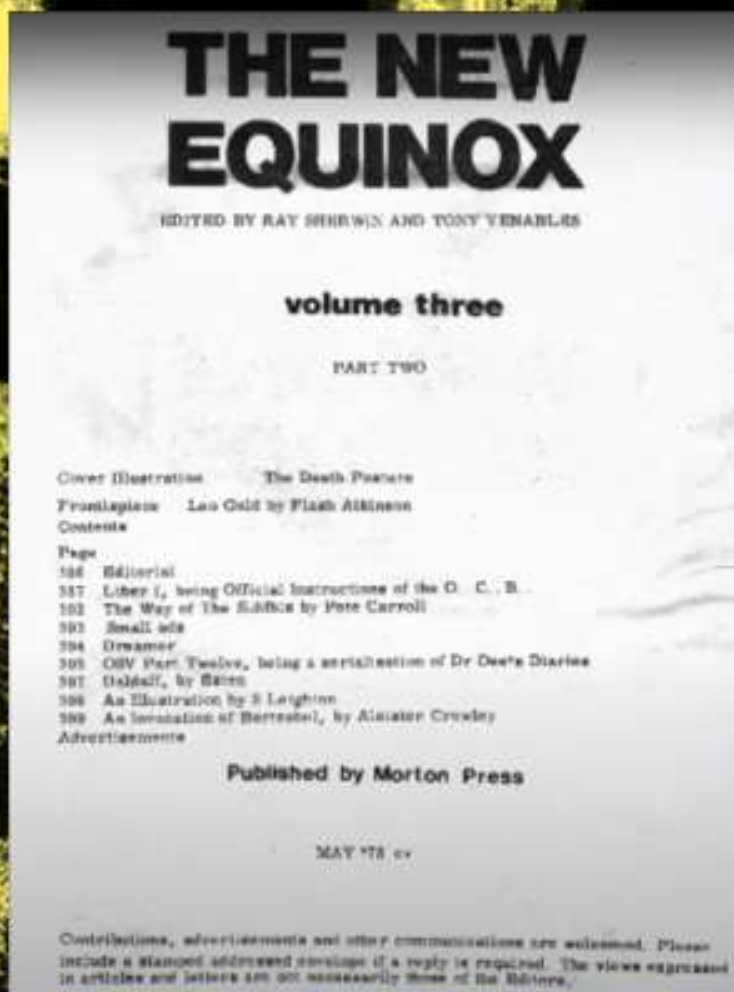
A comic book panel with a dark, textured background. A large, rectangular door is the central focus, its surface covered in a chaotic arrangement of human bones and skulls. Some bones are long and straight, while others are curved or broken. Skulls are scattered across the door, some facing forward and others in profile. The door is framed by a heavy wooden border with visible hinges and bolts. At the top, several ropes or chains are attached to the frame. In the bottom right corner, a young boy with dark hair and a wide-eyed, excited expression is shown from the chest up. He is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved shirt. His right hand is pressed against the bone-covered door, with his fingers spread. A speech bubble originates from the top right of the door, containing text.

THE  
WORLD OF  
SORCERERS  
IS RIGHT  
THROUGH  
THIS DOOR!





# THE NEW EQUINOX (Ray Sherwin)



Where it all started... Ray Sherwin's little periodical Featured Works by Crowley and Spare. And then, around 1978, a wild announcement by the IOT appeared! Chaos Magic was on the loose!

1976-1979





# Liber Null (Peter Carroll)



THE BOOK OF CHAOS ITSELF! NO OTHER BOOK HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH CHAOS MAGIC AS MUCH AS LIBER NULL. IRONICALLY, THE FIRST EDITION BARELY MENTIONS CHAOS.

1978





# THE BOOK OF RESULTS

## (Ray Sherwin)



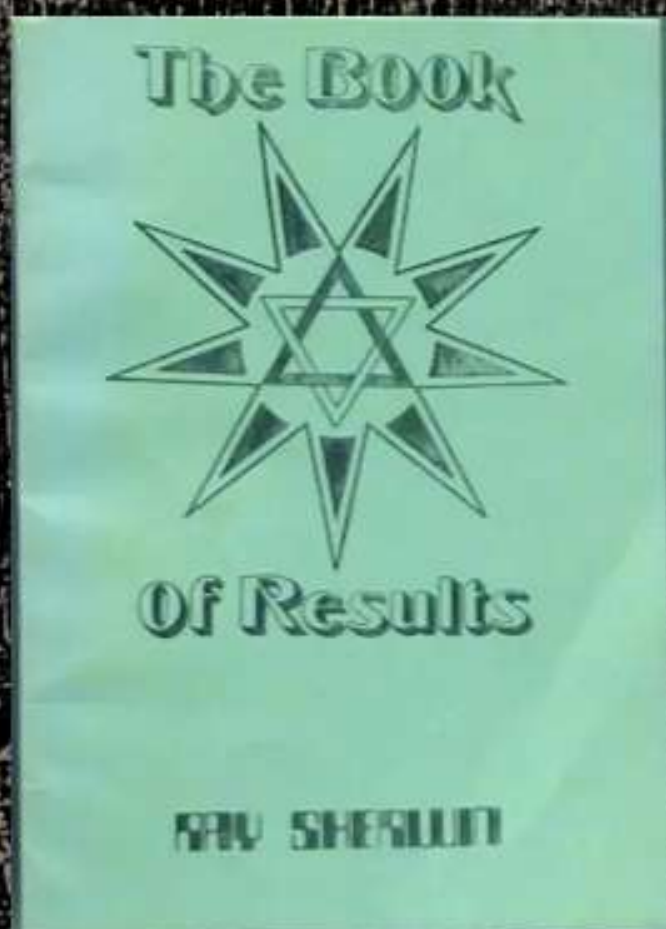
Ray's little booklet is all about results. Follow the instructions, make the sigil, discard the letters, forget, see what you get! (oh... and photos of naked women)

1979





# THE BOOK OF RESULTS (2<sup>ND</sup> edition)



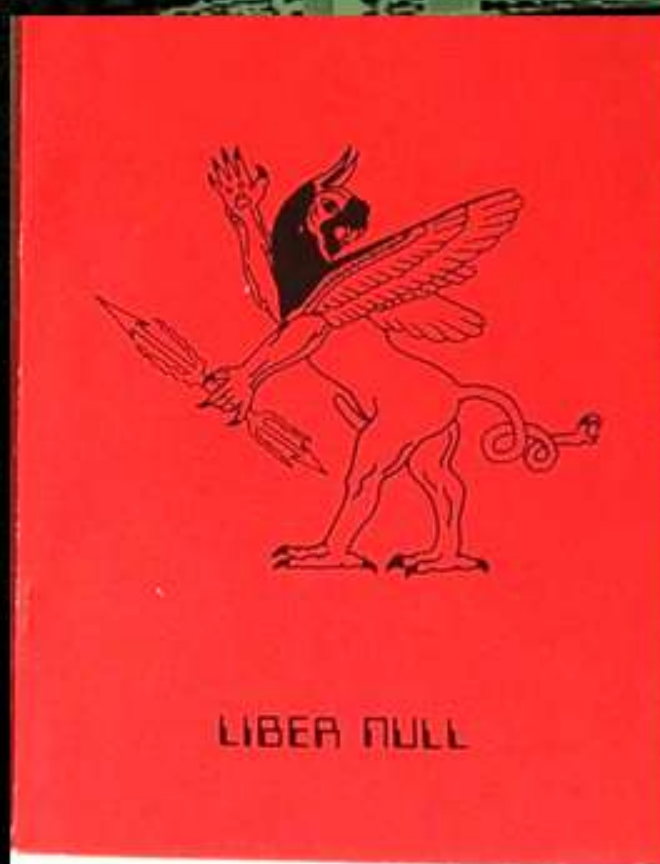
Pretty MUCH the same as the 1979 edition.  
I mean... they're ONLY a FEW MONTHS apart...

1980





# Liber Null (2nd edition)



SMOKIN-HOT Tiamat against a blood-red background. This edition added several cool features, including two entirely new chapters and non-stop mention of chaos and shamanism!

1981





# THE BOOK OF RESULTS (3rd edition)



There's Tiamat again! Sherwin removed all the imagery and instead added a new section which explored the concept of the Holy Guardian Angel.

1981-2





# PSYCHONAUT (Peter Carroll)



CARROLL'S other definitive text, *PSYCHONAUT*, often reads like a manifesto of SHAMANO-CHAOTIC CONSCIOUSNESS. A companion to the 1981 *Liber NULL* WHICH dealt extensively with similar subjects.

1981-2



# The Lamp of Thoth

## (Chris Bray)



CHRIS BRAY'S brainchild and one of the staples of 1980S chaotic zinery! Gossip, humor, eclecticism and zany views on all things occult.

1981-1989





# THE GREY BOOK (TOPY)



P-Orridge WANTS you to Feed the geese at 23:00 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the MONTH! TOPY'S gospel if there ever WAS one! THIS guide to Sigilization is MORE about revolution than about practical Magic.

1982





# THE THEATRE OF MAGIC

(RAY SHERWIN)

?

THIS FUNCTIONS AS A PART 2 OF SHERWIN'S *BOOK OF RESULTS*. CONTAINS SOME FASCINATING OBSERVATIONS ON THE PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE.

1982



# FORMAOS, A Periodical of the Occult Arts



CLASSIC 1980S periodical ON ALL THINGS OCCULT. ITS  
very first issue delved into the ideas of Austin  
OSMAN Spare and Robert ANTON WILSON!

1983-85



# Encyclopedia of Ecstasy (Alistair Livingston)



ALISTAIR LIVINGSTON'S three-part psychedelic masterpiece! This truly gesamtkunstwerkian zine brims with post-punk noise and occult aesthetic.

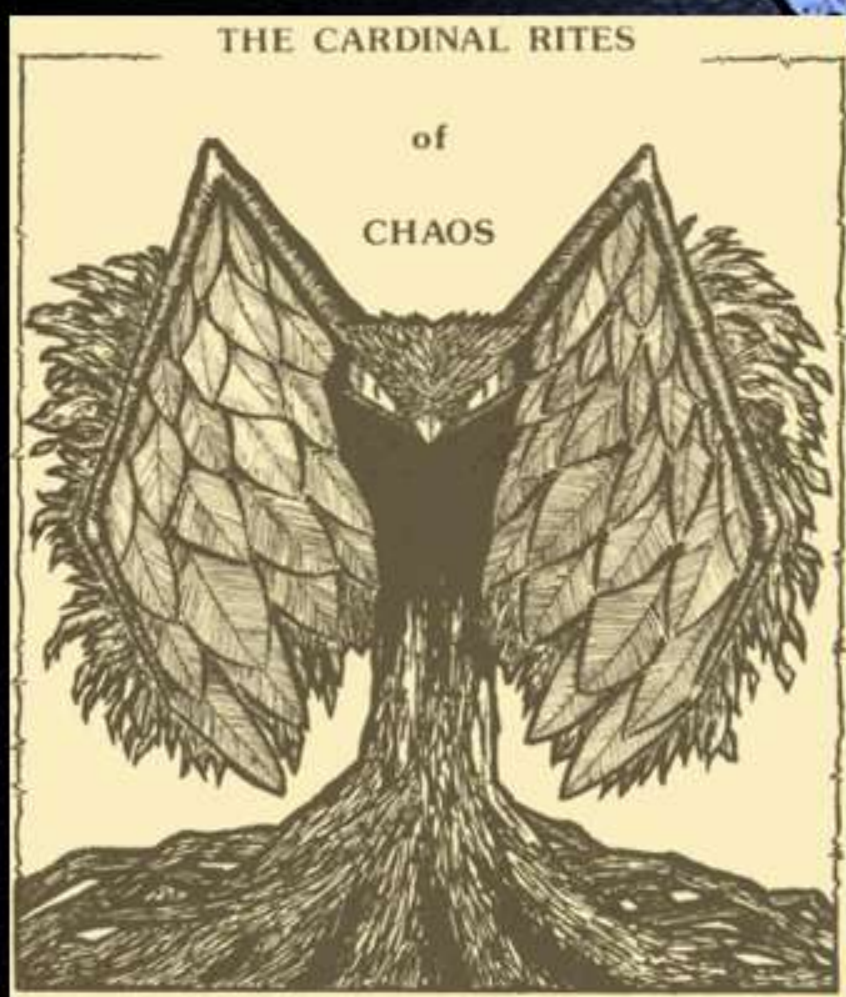
1983-1985





# THE CARDINAL RITES OF CHAOS

(Ray Sherwin)



AUTHORED BY PAULA PAGANI?? THAT'S SHERWIN ALRIGHT.  
THIS WEIRD LITTLE BOOKLET LISTS VARIOUS RITUALS BASED  
ON THE EQUINOXES AND SOLSTICES, SUPPOSEDLY  
PERFORMED BY A 'CIRCLE OF CHAOS' IN THE 1960S.

1984





# Liber Null (german)

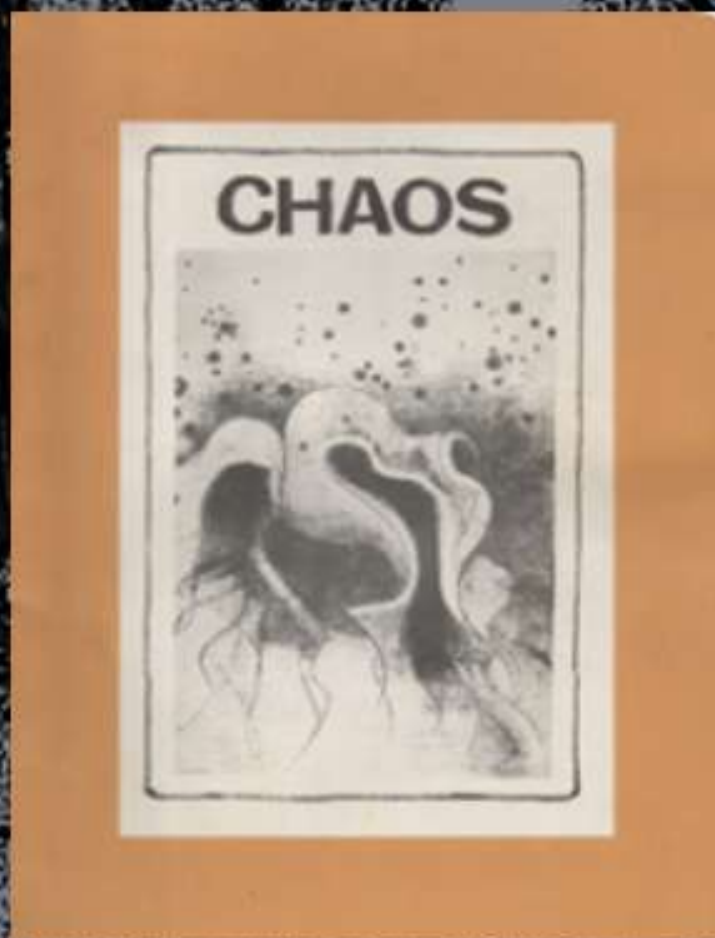
?

The First translation of Carroll's book was produced without his permission! But Good things came From it...

1984?



# CHAOS (HAKIM BEY)

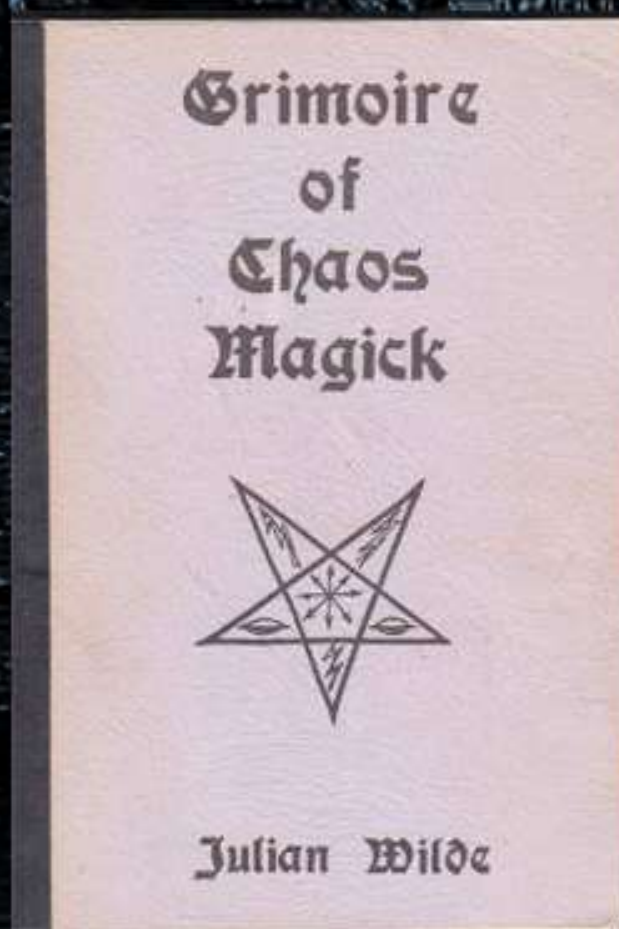


Bey's First attempt at illustrating his idea of "ontological anarchy" is beautifully poetic. He also introduced a more positive view of chaos than that circulating in chaos magic and the punk subculture.

1985



# GRIMOIRE OF CHAOS MAGICK (JULIAN WILDE)



A somewhat eccentric and artistic take on chaos magic. Scholar Tanya Luhrmann's claim that it was the 'basic manual' of the current during the 1980s was probably fake news generated by its publisher, Chris Bray!

1985





# ANUBIS (Frater UD)



The definitive occult German zine! Balanced, refined and certainly more serious than its British counterparts, this periodical featured articles by Carroll and Lionel Snell as well!

1985-1995?





# Liber NULL

## (2<sup>nd</sup> German edition)



THIS zine is not really a zine... It has a normal ISBN number! The first non-zine edition of *Liber NULL* was german/Wie WUNDERVOLL!!

1986





# CHAOS International (IOT)

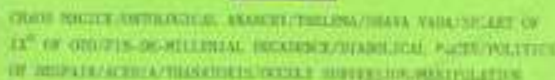


The quintessential chaos Magic zine of the '80s and '90s! Amazing post-punk artwork, humour, provocative ideas and, you guessed it, Magic!

1986-1997



(Joel Biroco)



**THE LOUD teenager of CHAOS MAGIC zines. GOSSIPY, PHILOSOPHICAL, ANARCHIC, OBNOXIOUS and deep. KAOS had it ALL!**

## 1986-1989



# NOX

(STEPHEN SENNITT)



ALWAYS expect dark things FROM SHEFFIELD... Like  
this classic periodical by STEPHEN SENNITT.

1986-1989





# Sorcery as virtual Mechanics (Stephen Mace)



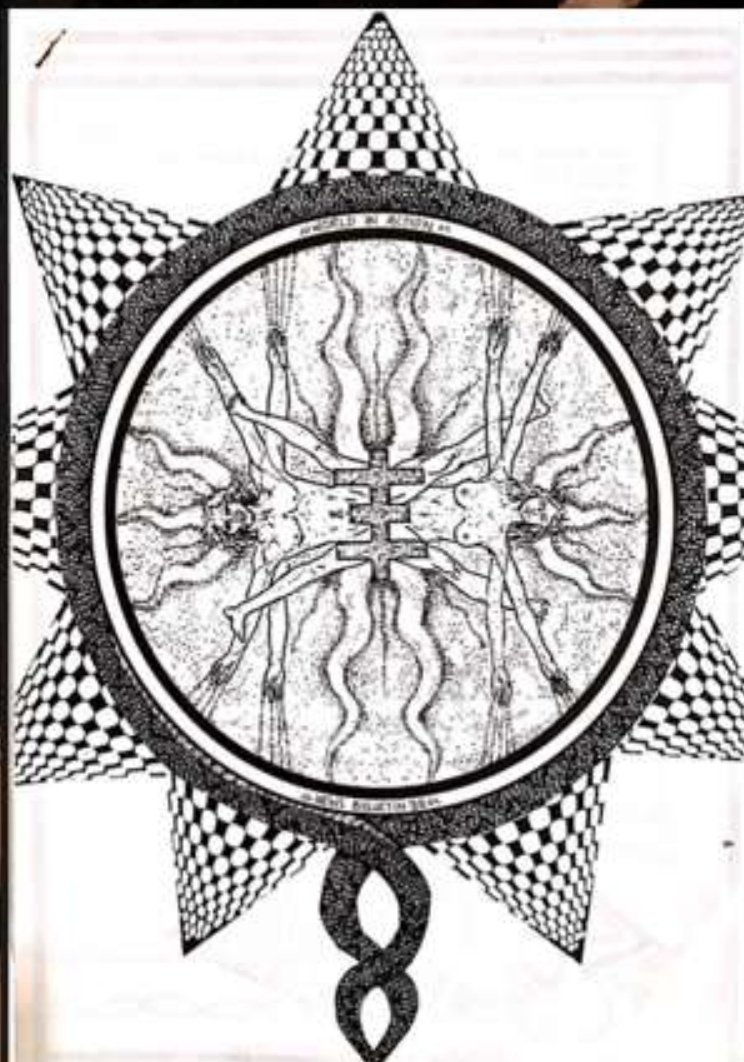
Like Carroll (to whom Mace refers as "prophet of ANontology"), this American chaote was obsessed with quantum physics and the like.

1988





# TOPY NEWS BULLETIN



THIS little NEWS bulleting Was distributed Mainly to advertise TOPY'S new acid house "Love War Riot" CD.


1988



# PAGAN NEWS

MANY VOICES, ONE SPIRIT

FEB '92  
£1.50



**MAXINE SANDERS INTERVIEW  
PSYCHIC QUESTING UNRAVELLED  
NEWS & EVENTS LISTING**

## 1988-Mid 1990s



# TECHNIQUES OF MODERN SHAMANISM (PHIL HINE)

WALKING BETWEEN THE  
WORLDS  
TECHNIQUES OF MODERN SHAMANISM  
VOLUME ONE



BY PHIL HINE

£1.50

?

?

ALSO KNOWN AS THE URBAN SHAMANISM TRILOGY, THIS  
THREE-PART WORK FOCUSES ON THE USE OF SHAMANIC  
TECHNIQUES TO HELP THE PRACTITIONER NAVIGATE THE  
COMPLEXITIES OF MODERN URBAN LIFE.

1989-1991





# FENRIS WOLF (CARL ABRAHAMSON)



THE WOLF THAT KILLS ODIN. ABRAHAMSON'S ZINE  
FEATURED WORKS, ARTICLES AND ART FROM ALL OVER THE  
CHAOS SCENE, INCLUDING STUFF BY SATANISTS AND  
THELEMITES.

1989-1993



# KaliSti CatalySt (autonomatrix)

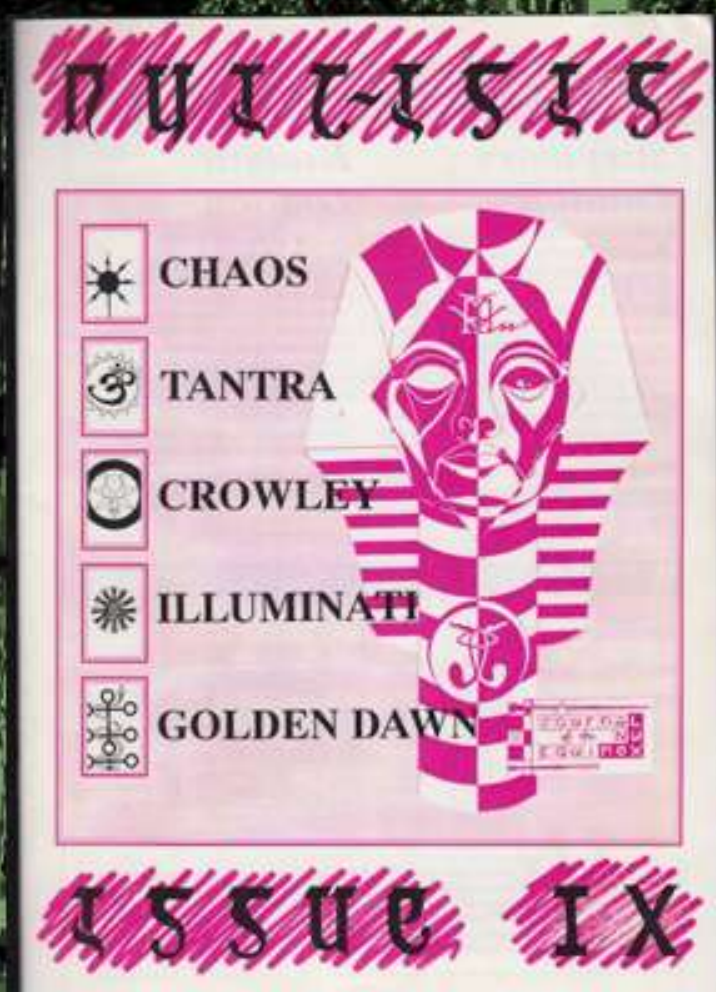


FUSING chaos Magic With discordianism, this Funky publication by the internet-savvy group AUTONOMATRIX HAILED FROM SAN FRANCISCO!

Late 1980S-early1990S



# Nuit-Isis



Not Necessarily a CHAOIST zine, but as you can see, CHAOS Was a certainly a Major topic!

## Late 1980S-early 1990S





# Liber Cyber

(CHARLIE BREWSTER)



Like Carroll and Mace, Charlie was obsessed with quantum physics and chaos theory. Can you locate the small Mandelbrot set on the cover?

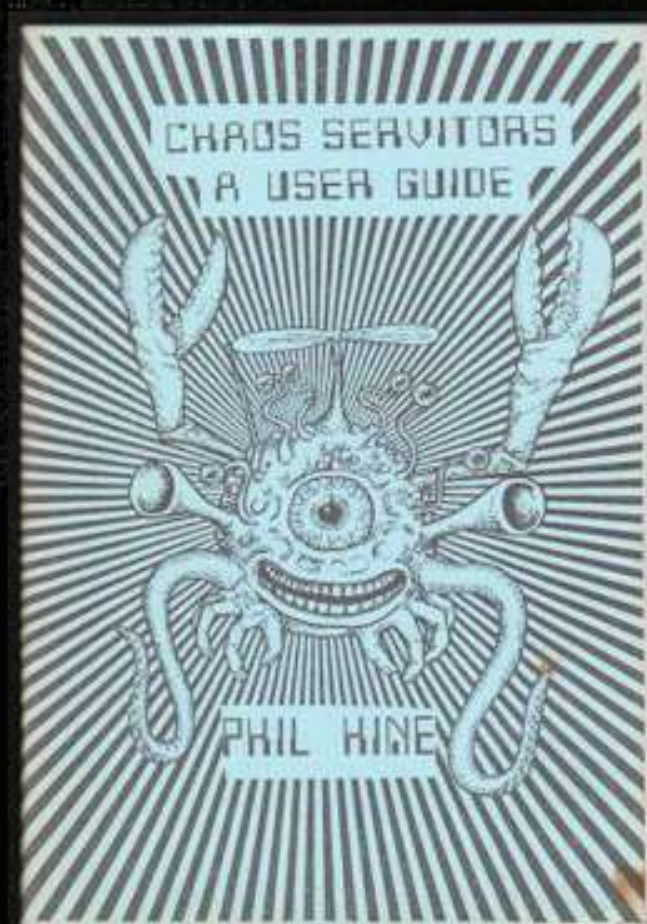
1990





# Chaos Servitors

(PHIL HINE)

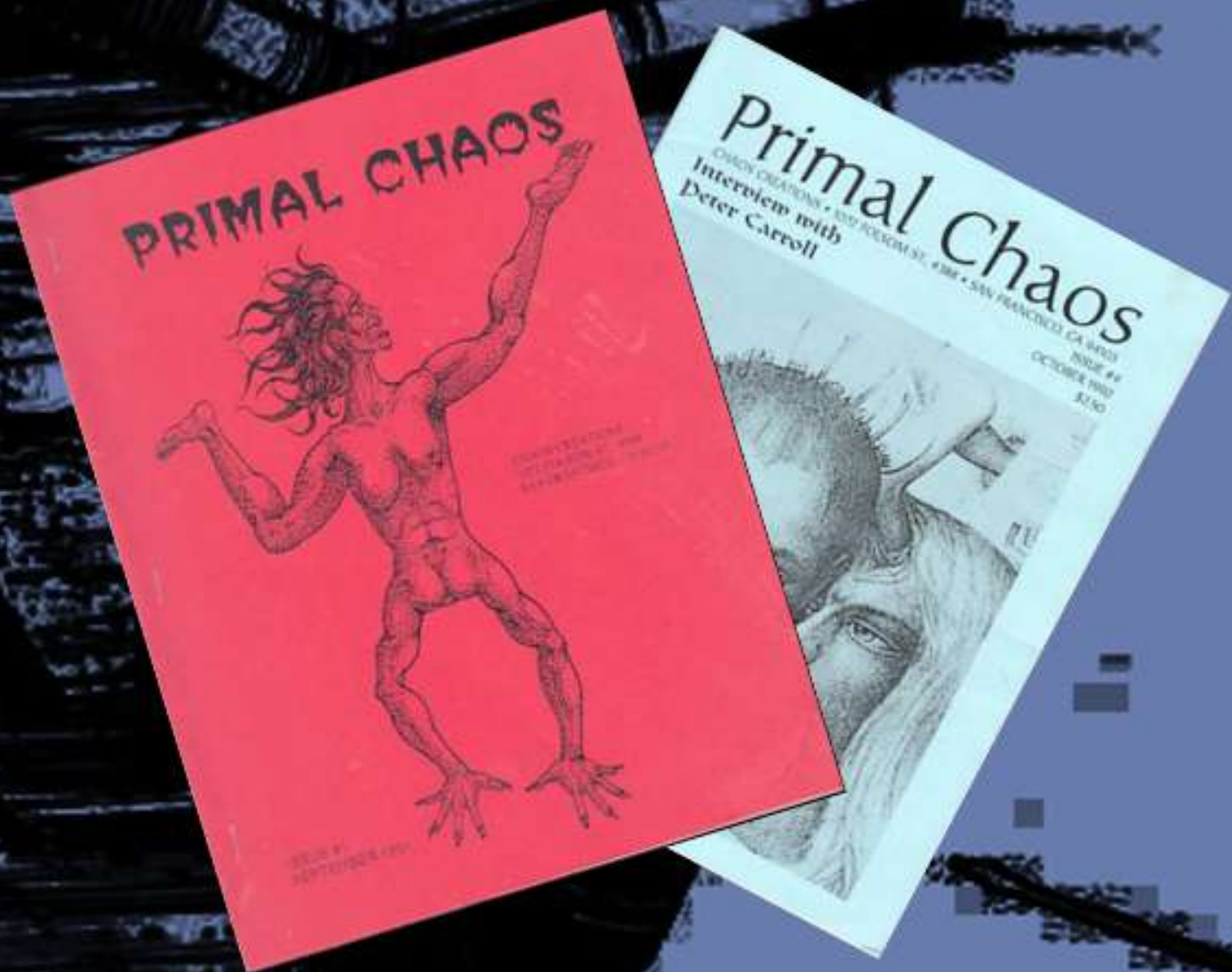


Containing some of Hine's most innovative ideas on Magic, this little zine was later incorporated into his 1995 *Condensed Chaos*.

1991



# PRIMAL CHAOS



SAN FRANCISCO HAD A VERY LIVELY CHAOS MAGIC SCENE IN THE EARLY 1990S. NO WONDER CHAOS MAGIC ZINES LIKE THIS ONE STARTED POPPING UP!

## 1991-Mid 1990s





# THEE GREEN BOOK (TOPY)

?

THE BOOKLET THAT EFFECTIVELY ANNOUNCED THE END  
OF TOPY FOLLOWING THE 1992 RAID OF P-ORRIDGE'S  
HOUSE IN BRIGHTON.

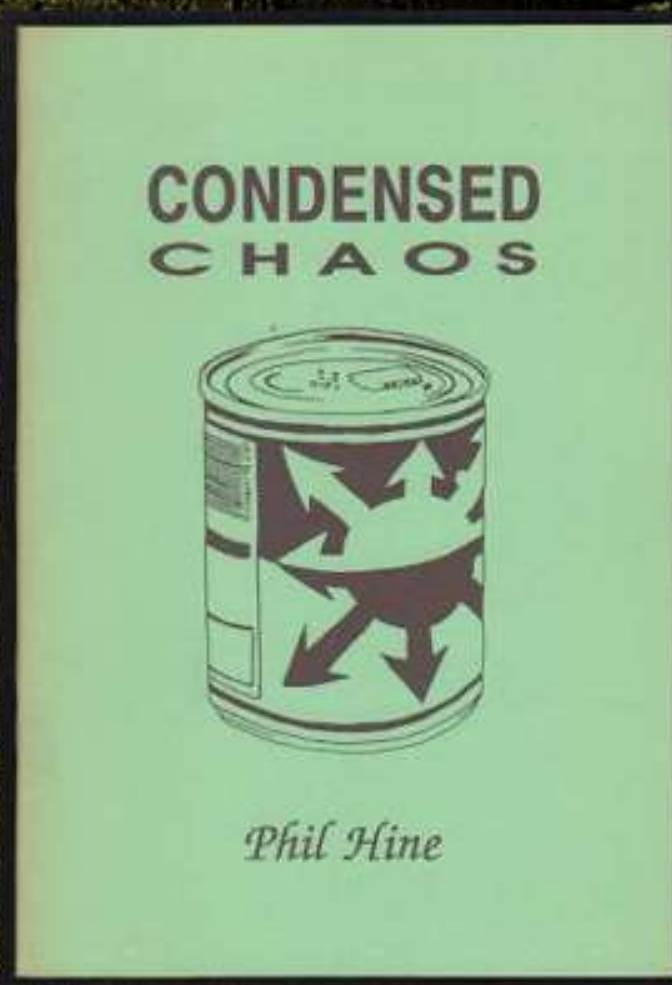
1992





# Oven-Ready CHaOS

(PHIL HINE)



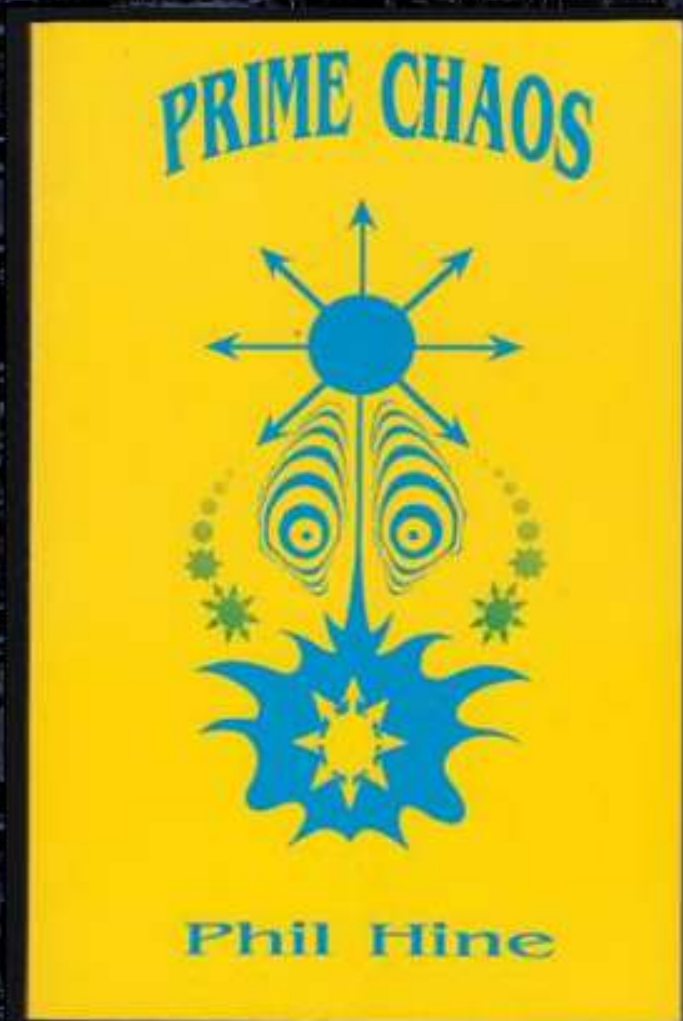
THIS WAS originally published as *CONDENSED CHAOS* by PHOENIX PUBLICATIONS and *CHAOS INTERNATIONAL*. WHEN the MAINSTREAM *CONDENSED CHAOS* came out in 1995 by NEW FALCON PUBLICATIONS, NEW COPIES OF THIS LITTLE ZINE WERE titled *OVEN-READY CHAOS*. ...CONFUSING!

1992





# PRIME CHAOS (PHIL HINE)



The *PRIME CHAOS* you've probably read is a Later, Mainstream edition by New Falcon Publications. The Original zine (pictured) was published in 1993 by *CHAOS International*.

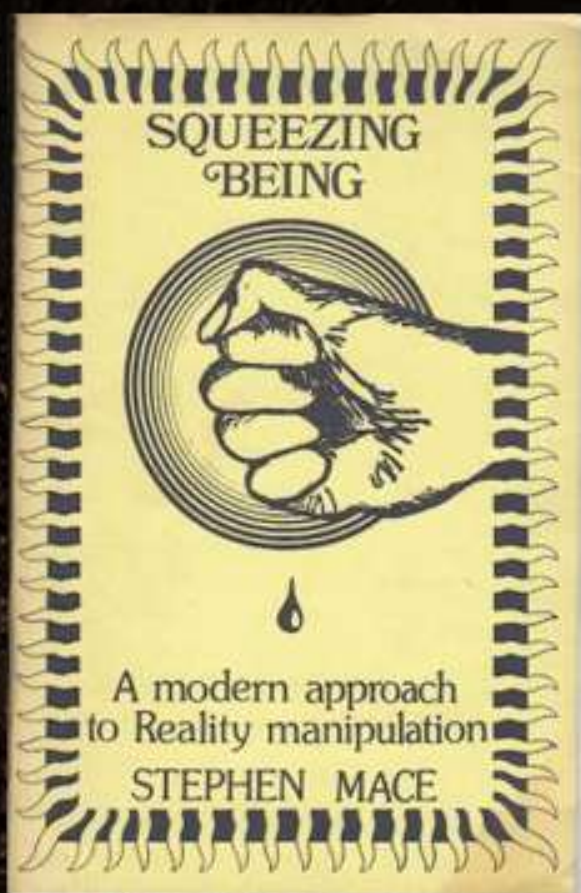
1993





# Squeezing Being

## Stephen Mace



Mace does his usual thing, talking about physics, mathematics etc. This time, Kurt Gödel and his indeterminacy theorem take the spotlight!

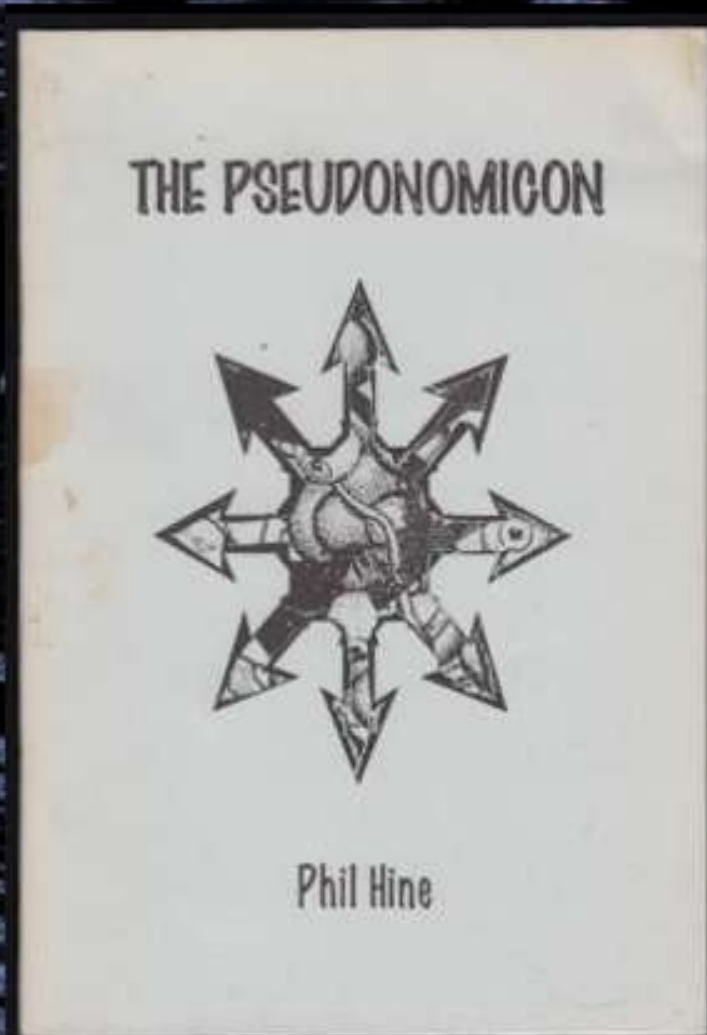
1993





# THE PSEUDONOMICON

(PHIL HINE)



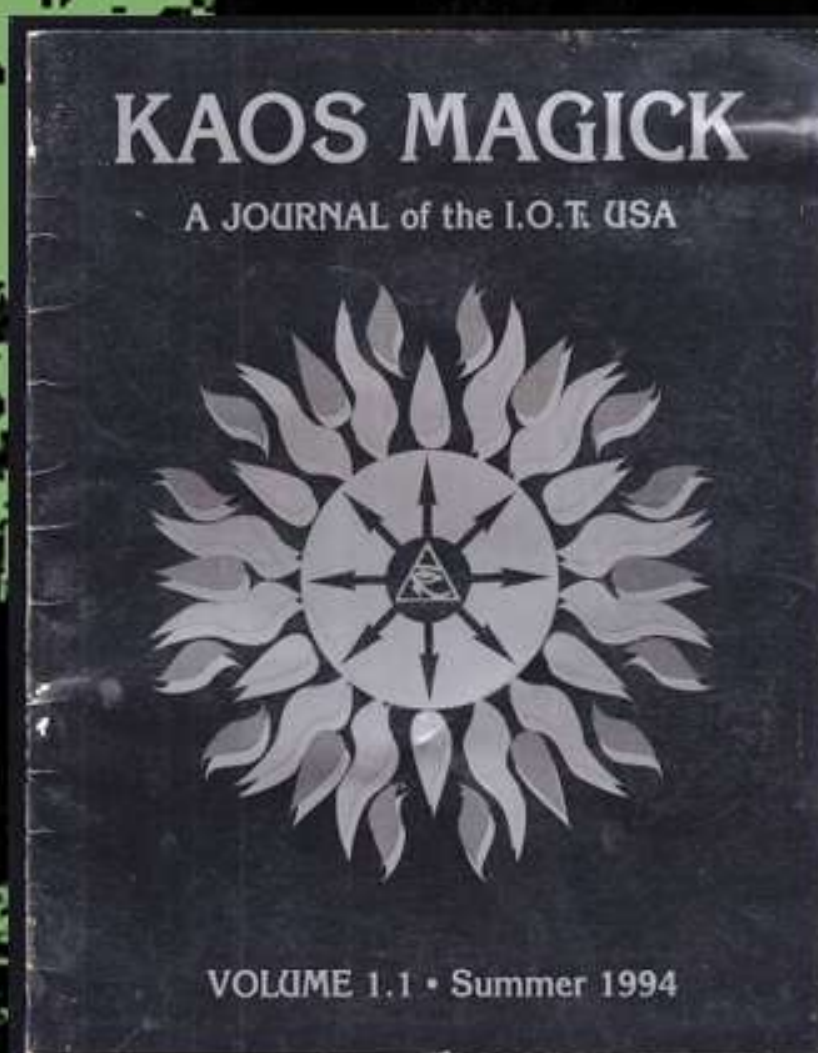
THE quinteSSential CHAOS Magic zine ON  
LOvecraFTian Magic! Hine ONce tried SUMMONing an  
OLD ONE atop a HILL at Night – a pillar OF Light  
beamed DOWN FROM the SKies and He ran away  
terrified!

1994





# Kaos Magick



THE IOT HAD BEEN operating in the US For more than Five years by this point. So they decided to publish their own zine! (They could have used a more imaginative title though...)

1994



# CHiMera



A DISCORDIAN zine in the UK (Norfolk in particular)...  
depicting a chaostar... made of a skull... and  
penises... Wut???

1990s?



Ending with the *Chimera* doesn't have to be as random as it initially seems. By the mid-1990s, chaos magic and its occult cousin, Discordianism, could frequently be found mentioned together. Perhaps the most characteristic such merging can be found on the cover of the Norfolk periodical. This fusion was especially prominent however in certain electronic dance music sound systems, the most famous of which was Spiral Tribe. Indeed, despite the greatest efforts and hard work of chaote zinesters, neither the coexistence of chaos magic and Discordianism, nor any other aspect of the scene for that matter were to survive on the paper pages of zines. The advent of the internet during the 1990s and the tech-savviness of several chaotes and Discordians ensured that discussions and networking were now shifted to cyberspace.





For some solid scholarly work on chaos magic and its zines, here's a brief bibliography. This e-zine itself draws heavily from them:

- Christian Greer, 'Occult Origins: Hakim Bey's Ontological Post-Anarchism', in *Anarchist Developments in Cultural Studies* 2 (2013), 166-187
- Christian Greer, 'Zines', in *Dictionary of Contemporary Esotericism*, ed. by Egil Asprem (Leiden: Brill, 2019 [pre-print])
- Duggan, Colin, 'Perennialism and Iconoclasm, in *Contemporary Esotericism*', ed. by in Egil Asprem and Kennet Granholm (Sheffield: Equinox Publishing Ltd., 2013), 91-112
- Otto, Bernd-Christian, 'The Illuminates of Thanateros and the institutionalisation of religious individualisation', in *Religious Individualisation: Historical Dimensions and Comparative Perspectives*, ed. by Martin Fuchs, Antje Linkenbach, Martin Muslow, Bernd-Christian Otto, Rahul Bjørn Parson, Jörg Rüpke (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2019), 759-796





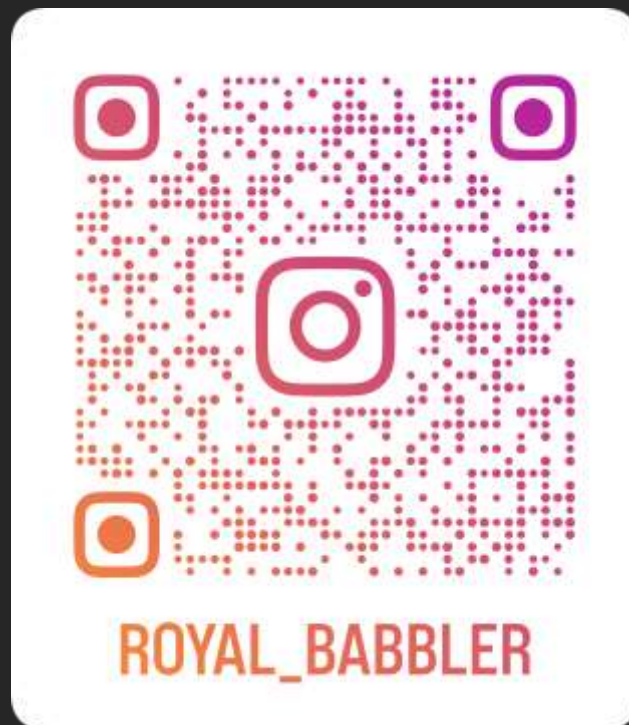
If you found any factual mistakes (e.g. year of publication); or if you would like to send me a photo of a cover that is missing (e.g. the first edition of Sherwin's *The Book of Results*); or if you happen to know any zines that I haven't included here, please send me a message at:

Academia:

<https://uth.academia.edu/BasilMeletiad>

Or,

Instagram:



I'll make sure to include them and mention you in the next version (1.2) 😊

Incidentally, I must thank Abby Stannard for corrections and advice!







# Τέλος